WEIRD TALES

FEB.
NO. 75
10¢

Captain America's WEIRD TALES

MARVEL COMIC

THE THING IN THE CHEST!

Colorful COMIC & SPORTS Sweater Emblems Embroidered With Any Name 39c

Snappy, rich-looking, two-color felt gold embroidered with any personal or nick name, team name, etc., only 39c each. Fine quality felt, excellent workmanship. You'll be proud to wear these smart emblems. **Large size; most of them about 3-in. high.** Completely outlined, die-cut ready to put on your sweater, jacket, shirt or hang in your bedroom or den, on your bike or auto, etc. Wonderful for teams, with each individual name on or with team name on. Be popular—get acquainted in a hurry—people will see your name, call you by name and get to know you quickly! Allow 10 Days: Made to Order. **Print name clearly. Specify design you wish.** **3—$1.00; 10—$2.95**

PRICE ONLY..39c EACH; 3 for $1.00; ANY 10 for $2.95

Put on Team or Individual Names

Be Popular—People See Your Name and Get to Know You Quickly!

Also Available (Not Illustrated) Ice Skate, Indian, Football, Baseball

Skunk

Genius

Devil

Double Heart

Wolf

Pennant

Roller or Ice Skate

Basket Ball

Heart

Champ Athlete

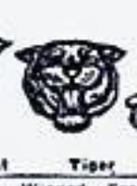
COLORFUL SWEATER EMBLEMS

Colorful full size felt emblems for jacket, sweater, wall, etc. Swell for teams and clubs. State design. **20c Each; 3 for 50c**

Skunk

Skull and Crossbones

Wildcat


Tiger

Flying Skates

Bulldog

Army

(Not Illustrated) Navy, Pirate, Devil, Winged Foot, Eagle, Panther, Cub, Marine Air Corps, Jackass, Wolf, Fox, Ski Jumper, Indian, Flying Ice Skate.

6-IN. CHENILLE LETTERS

College and high school varsity quality. High piled, silky, comrade chenille. Fast colors, large full block letter style. Finest workmanship. **GIVE LETTER, MAIN COLOR, TRIM COLOR, INSERTS (35c each extra).** Two color, reinforced backing. Postpaid..... **$1.50**

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Same as above only 8-inch size; college varsity size and quality. Give letter, colors, inserts, etc. Postpaid.... **$2.00**
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Any Wording Any 2 Colors

Adam

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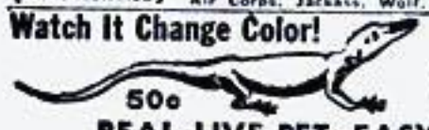
Add 10c for Each Letter Over 6

PRINT NAME AND GIVE COLORS DESIRED

Watch It Change Color!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REAL LIVE PET; EASY TO KEEP

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(Leatherette Everready Case 50c) CAMERA ONLY.....
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Learn to Fence! Fight with swords (foils). Teaches you the art of self defense same as in boxing. Set consists of 2 steel foils (swords) 3 feet in length, with an aluminum guard and complete instructions on how to fence. Teaches you to think and act quickly. Plenty of fun with this sport—be the champ swordsman! Foils equipped with hand guard and rubber tip. Sensationally low priced. **$2.50**
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Take It With You Wherever You Go

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Radio "Mike" 99c

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Real Electric Motor! All the parts packed in a neat box with full instructions for assembling. No trouble at all putting it together—it's FUN! Takes but a few minutes. And OH BOY! Isn't it speedy! Runs on a No. 6 or similar dry battery. Educational — novel — unique. Price Postpaid **25c**

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BB's, 3 pkgs. 25c; .177 pellets, 500 for $1.50
Steel darts, 35c pkge.; holster, 50c.

Order BB's for Your Air Guns

Shoots BBs Darts Pellets

No C.O.D.

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Handles like real Western carbine saddle rifle. **LIGHTNING LOADER, holds 1000 shot, fast repeater action.** Shoot 30 shots per minute. Single pump action resets and reloads for each new shot. Blued steel, imitation gold bands. Leather saddle thong, 36-in. long; 3½-lbs. With target, shot, shooter's badge, etc. **Red Ryder 1000-Shot..... $5.49**

DAISY 50 SHOT PUMP AIR RIFLE

HARD HITTING—ACCURATE! Low price. 50 shot repeater, with forged feed permitting easy firing from shoulder. Cocks easily by simply pulling slide toward stock. Adjustable rear sight and hand-milled "non-slip" grooves on butt of its pistol grip. American Walnut stock. All metal parts gun blue. Length 28-in., weight 3¼-lbs. Price..... **$6.98**

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AMAZINGLY USEFUL INVENTION. Miracle Projector projects and enlarges clippings, pictures, sketches, objects, maps, etc., in full **natural color correctly and readable (does not reverse)** on wall, paper, table, etc. Adjustable focus; **project large or small.** Learn to draw sketch and letter this easy way by copying any picture, lettering or object right over projected image on paper. Easy to make **signs, posters, cartoons, sketches. Magnify stamps, specimens, objects for close examination.** Magnifies 50 areas. Wonderful reader for those with weak eyes. **Photo enlargements and copies easy to make without negatives;** use any picture, photo or copy. Makes **exact positive enlargement,** large or small. Revolutionary cheap way to make photo enlargements. Project natural moving pictures; live flies, insects, puppets can be projected on screen and see them in live action. **Great money maker doing work and giving shows.** Wonderful for clubs, schools, home, office, shop, science work. Used by artists, teachers, collectors, etc., etc. **Special arrangement projects startling, life-like 3-dimensional pictures.** Exact duplicates of diagrams, blueprints, papers quickly made. See it, use it, money back guarantee of satisfaction. **No skill; no experience; nothing more to buy for most uses.**

ALL ELECTRIC. Double lens, optically ground, handsome enameled steel case, 7½-in. high, 10-in. long. Adjustable focus lens. Complete except for lamp (uses any household lamp). Takes up to 3¼x4-in.; enlarges to about 22x30-in. With illustrated instructions; tells how to use for all types of enlarging, projection, copying, photo prints, etc. **Price Postpaid $3.98**

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Funniest novelty ever invented! Fits the finger like a ring, but concealed in palm is the **TICKLER.** The buzzer, or tickler, contains a clockwork mechanism that is wound up. Whenever it is touched, the mechanism is released, giving the victim a shock. Every time you shake hands your friends will get a violent shock. Touch them on back and watch 'em jump. They "hit the ceiling" if they sit on it. Under sheet feels like mouse. Use as a "tic-tac" on window. Price..... **50c**

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Whoopee Cushion is made of rubber, inflated like a balloon and then placed on a chair, couch, seat, etc. When the victim unsuspectingly sits upon the cushion, it gives forth noises better imagined than described. Price Only.... **35c**
3 of These Wonderful Jokes for $1.00

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Skull & crossbones ring. Silver color. Brilliant sparkling red stones make eyes shine in dark. State Size..... **49c**

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Train animals! Crack the whip! Powerful hard plait 6-ply whip. Hand loop over 6-in. long. Each only..... **$1.98**

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Remote Control Electric Auto

Goes Forward, Backward and Turns

Greatest Invention Since Electric Train

What a thrill you & your dad—everyone—will get from DRIVING this auto. **THE GREATEST ELECTRICAL TOY SINCE THE ELECTRIC TRAIN!** Powered by amazing super-powered midget electric Mini-Motor. Operates from built-in flashlight cells readily replaced. 2500 r.p.m. self-starting reversible motor. 1/20th hp. variable power.

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Remote Control Auto. Postpaid **$3.49**
Standard Flashlight Cells, (Uses 2) Each 10c

Push Button—It Starts! Push Button—It Stops! Push Button—It Reverses! Push Button—It Steers
Climbs Hills; Drive With You Indoors or Outdoors

HITE BUILDERS

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50c

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Price..... **50c**
Extra Noisemaker ... **10c**
Tube, Set..... **10c**

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Reads Up to 50 M.P.H.

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Catapult action. Harmless fun. Brightly polished all-metal gun. Full size. Attractive automatic style..... **49c**
Pack of BB's, 3 Pkgs. for..... **25c**
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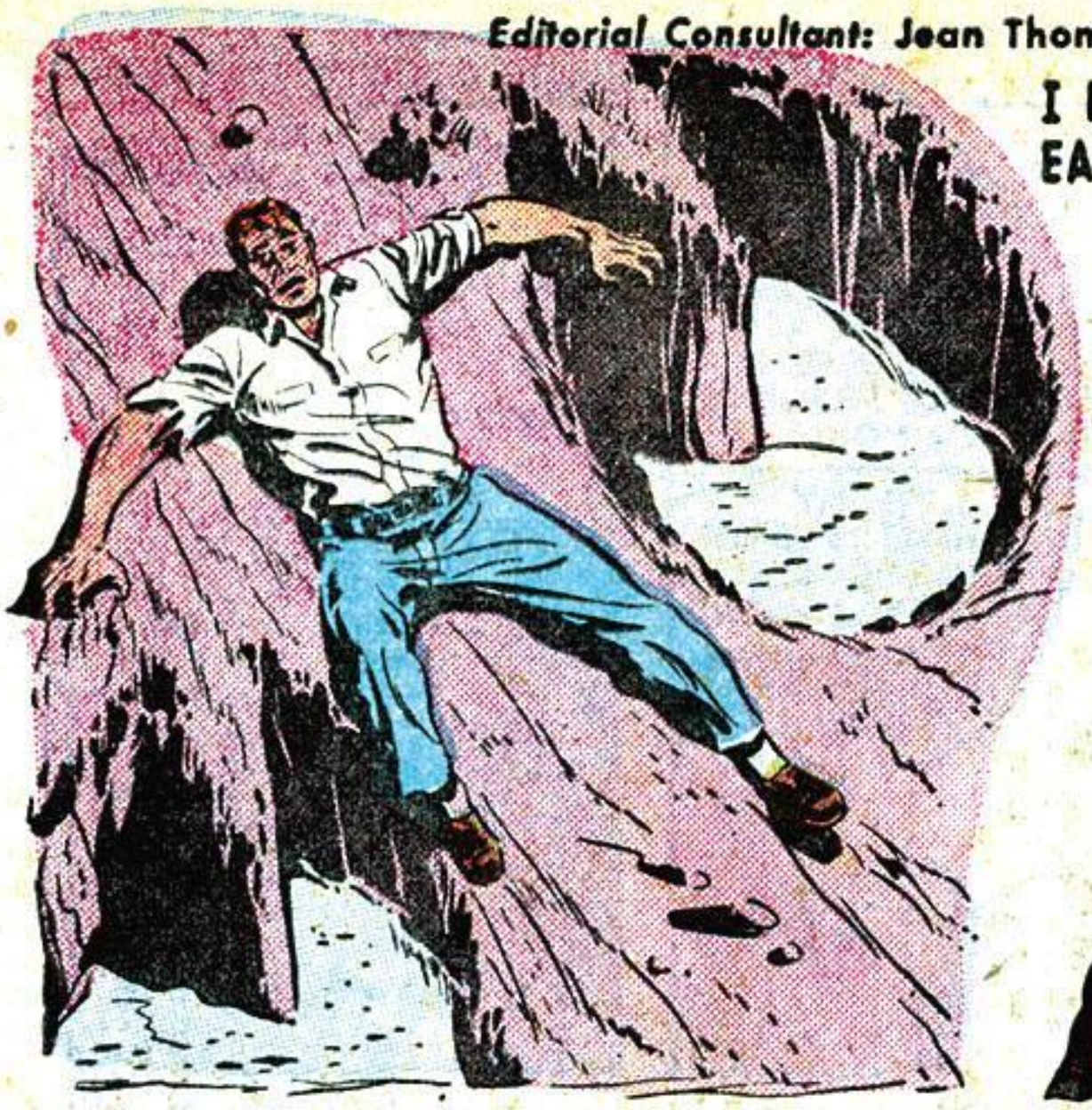


I KNEW THAT THERE WAS NO PLACE ON EARTH REMOTE ENOUGH OR SAFE ENOUGH TO HIDE FROM THE

HOOF-PRINTS OF DOOM!

5466

WEIRD TALES 75

WE DROPPED ANCHOR IN ALGIERS ON MAY 10, 1936! MACREADY AND I DIDN'T WASTE ANY TIME TAKING IN THE SIGHTS AND, LIKE TWO TYPICAL SAILORS, WE HIT THE INFAMOUS CASBAH FIRST! THAT'S WHERE THE HORROR-- THE THING THAT EVEN NOW I DON'T UNDERSTAND-- BEGAN...

AN INDIAN FAKIR WAS SQUATTING CROSSLEGGED UNDER A SMALL CANOPY..

DON'T TELL ME THAT GUY IS GOING TO MAKE A FLOCK OF COBRAS DO A JIG FOR HIM, MAC!

I DON'T SEE A BASKET OF COBRAS AROUND! I'VE HEARD OF THESE FAKIRS BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE!

WHAT TH...? THE OLD INDIAN ROPE TRICK! LOOK, MAC--THE ROPE IS BEGINNING TO RISE!

YEAH! I SEE IT BUT I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

WELL, I'LL BE...! HE DID IT!

YEAH! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! ...EITHER IT'S AN ILLUSION OR JUST A CLEVER TRICK!

ALL NAMES AND PLACES IN THIS TRUE-TO-LIFE STORY ARE FICTITIOUS
ANY SIMILARITY BETWEEN ACTUAL PERSONS OR PLACES AND THOSE USED IN THIS STORY IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL

WE WERE WALKING AWAY, WHEN SUDDENLY..

WH...? OH, IT'S YOU!

YES, EFFENDI, IT IS I! YOU SEEMED INTERESTED IN MY ACT, ALTHOUGH YOU THINK IT A COMMON TRICK!

FATE HAS DRAWN US TOGETHER, EFFENDI! YOUR NAME IS JAMES HARRIS! IF YOU WILL HONOR ME WITH YOUR PRESENCE TONIGHT AT SEVEN, I WILL REVEAL SOMETHING OF PERSONAL INTEREST TO YOU!

...YES, MY NAME IS JAMES HARRIS! HOW DID YOU KNOW?

HE MUMBLED A FEW DIRECTIONS AND WAS SWALLOWED UP...

HOW DID HE KNOW MY NAME?

I GUESS HE COULD HAVE FOUND OUT FROM ONE OF THE OTHER BOYS! THESE FAKIRS WILL GO TO ANY LENGTHS TO MAKE THEIR STUFF LOOK GOOD! ANYWAY, WE'LL LOOK HIM UP TOINGHT!

HE LIVED IN A SMALL TENT OUTSIDE OF TOWN...

WE DIDN'T FALL FOR THAT ROPE TRICK AND WE DON'T THINK YOU PULLED MY NAME OUT OF THIN AIR! NOW LET'S HEAR ABOUT THAT PERSONAL MATTER YOU SPOKE OF!

IN A MOMENT, EFFENDI! I ASK YOU TO LOOK OUTSIDE THE TENT INTO THE DESERT!

WE RAISED THE TENT FLAP AND LOOKED...

THIS GUY IS BEGINNING TO GIVE ME THE CREEPS! I DON'T SEE ANYTHING! DO YOU?

TAKE IT EASY, HARRIS! THIS IS ONLY A PSYCHOLOGICAL BUILD-UP FOR HIS NEXT GAG! NOTHING BUT SAND AND MOON! LET'S CHECK IN!

WELL, WE LOOKED! WHAT'S NEXT, SWAMI?

A WIND RISES IN THE EAST, EFFENDI! IT SWEEPS ACROSS THE DESERT AND SINGS A SONG OF DEATH! LOOK OUT UPON THE DESERT ONCE MORE, EFFENDI!

WE LOOKED AGAIN, AND SAW...

GOOD GRIEF! MAC! DO YOU... SEE...?

...YEAH! IT WASN'T THERE A SECOND AGO!

WHAT KIND OF A CRAZY TRICK IS THIS, EH? SPEAK UP, MISTER! IS THIS THE PERSONAL SURPRISE YOU HAD FOR ME!

YES, EFFENDI! YOU STILL DISBELIEVE? GO CLOSER TO THE GIBBET AND SEE FOR YOURSELF THAT IT IS NO TRICK!

MAC! IS IT... REAL?

I... DON'T KNOW... I DON'T KNOW! IT CAN'T BE!

WE CIRCLED IT SLOWLY, AND SUDDENLY...

MAC!! IT'S ME... IT'S ME!!!

I WENT CRAZY WITH FEAR AND RAGE...

WHAT DOES IT MEAN? TELL ME, YOU ROTTEN DEVIL... WHAT IS IT?

ALLAH HOLDS THE FATE OF ALL MEN, YOURS AS WELL AS MINE!

LOOK OUT, JIM! HE'S GOT A KNIFE!

IT IS A SIGN! IT IS ALLAH'S WILL THAT YOU DIE ON THE GALLOWS! I MUST CARRY OUT THE WILL OF ALLAH!

DROP THAT KNIFE!

THE KNIFE WAS IN MY HAND! I LUNGED ONCE... TWICE... AND THEN...

YOU FOOL! YOU CAN'T DEFY ALLAH'S WILL! YOU SHALL DIE BY THE GALLOWS! THE CLOVEN HOOFS WILL TRAP YOU...

AHHHRRGH!

HE'S... DEAD!

HARRIS... LOOK! THE GIBBET IS GONE!

WH...?! NOTHING... BUT... THE MOON AND THE SAND! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

WAIT A MINUTE! LOOK AT THESE PRINTS HERE IN THE SAND, HARRIS!

THE PRINTS OF A CLOVEN HOOF! MAC, I'M GETTING OUT!

TWO YEARS PASSED AND THE INCIDENT IN ALGIERS PASSED FROM OUR THOUGHTS LIKE A BAD DREAM! 1938 FOUND US LAID UP FOR REPAIRS IN LIVERPOOL! WE HUNG AROUND FOR TWO WEEKS, SPENT ALL OUR MONEY, AND WOUND UP BROKE ON THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 12TH...

START THINKING, HARRIS! WE CAN'T SLEEP ABOARD THE SHIP TONIGHT AND WE HAVEN'T GOT THE PRICE OF A NIGHT'S LODGING!

NO PROBLEM AT ALL, MAC! I'VE NOTICED LOTS OF CHARMING OLD HOUSES BOARDED UP ALONG THE STREET!

VERY CHARMING, INDEED! COULDN'T YOU HAVE PICKED A NICE, CHEERFUL MAUSOLEUM IN SOME COZY CEMETERY?

STOP GRIPING, MAC! ANY PORT IN A STORM, SAILOR!

STRANGELY ENOUGH, THE DOOR WAS OPEN...

HMMM... THE DOOR WAS OPEN! SOMEBODY MUST BE EXPECTING US!

WE WON'T WAIT FOR INTRODUCTIONS! LET'S FIND A BEDROOM AND GET SOME SHUT-EYE!

WE SETTLED ON AN EAST BEDROOM... THE ONLY ONE WHICH HAD ANY FURNITURE IN IT...

WE'LL HAVE THE PLACE NICE AND COZY IN A FEW MINUTES! WHAT MORE COULD A GUY ASK FOR?

PLENTY! THIS PLACE GIVES ME THE CREEPS! HAND ME THAT CANDLE SO'S I CAN GET A FIRE GOING HERE!

STILL AWAKE, MAC? Y'KNOW, I'VE GOT THE STRANGEST FEELING THAT SOMEONE IS WATCHING US! CAN'T SHAKE IT OFF, EITHER!

YOU NOTICED IT TOO, EH? I DIDN'T WANT TO SAY ANYTHING ABOUT IT... I THOUGHT YOU WERE ASLEEP! WELL, PLEASANT DREAMS ANYWAY, HARRIS! G'NIGHT!

I WOKE UP AROUND 2 A.M., TREMBLING FROM A NIGHTMARE...

WHEW! WHAT A DREAM!...WH...??! THE FIRE'S GONE OUT... BETTER GET UP AND THROW A FEW STICKS ON IT!

SUDDENLY I GLANCED OVER AT MAC'S BED...

WHAT TH...??! MAC! MAC! WHAT'S THE MATTER?

CLARRGH... UG... GLUB!

IN HEAVEN'S NAME, MAC... WHAT IS IT? ...SPEAK, MAC... *SPEAK!*

GLUG! GLUG!

NO! NO! *STOP*, MAC! *STOP!*

IN THE NEXT SECOND SOME UNSEEN FORCE HURLED MAC'S BODY AT ME...

THERE'S SOMETHING IN THIS ROOM! I CAN'T SEE IT... BUT I KNOW IT'S HERE! I'M NEXT!

SUDDENLY A CHAIR WAS THROWN ASIDE AND I KNEW THE THING, WHATEVER IT WAS, WAS COMING FOR ME...

CRASH!

AT THAT MOMENT A PAIR OF ICY STEEL HANDS CLOSED AROUND MY THROAT...

FEAR GAVE ME STRENGTH AS I TORE AT THE THINGS FINGERS...

NOT... ME! (PANT! PANT!) YOU... GOT... MAC, BUT... NOT ME !!

THERE! IT'S INVISIBLE, BUT IT MUST HAVE FELT THAT!

THUMP!

CRASH!

I RAN ACROSS THE ROOM, GROPING FOR IT WITH MY FINGERS...

I'VE GOT TO FIND IT! I'VE GOT TO PRESS MY ADVANTAGE WHILE I STILL HAVE MY STRENGTH!

I'VE GOT IT! IT'S WRITHING LIKE A SNAKE... BUT I'VE GOT IT!

SMACK!

IT WAS DOWN! I STRADDLED IT AND SMASHED IT UNTIL MY FISTS BLED...

IT'S BEGINNING TO WEAKEN... IT'S HURT!

SOCK

CRACK

I FELT THE BONES IN MY HAND SHATTER AS I BASHED AWAY AT IT... AND THEN IT WENT LIMP...

(PANT! PANT!) IT'S LICKED... FINISHED!

I FOUND SOME STRONG ROPE IN AN EMPTY CLOSET AND TIED THE THING UP SECURELY! I DRAGGED IT ACROSS THE ROOM AND HEAVED IT ON THE BED! I THOUGHT FOR AWHILE I HAD GONE MAD...THERE WAS NOTHING IN THE ROPES, BUT THE BED SAGGED WHERE THE THING'S BODY RESTED ON IT! IT CAME TO, AND I WATCHED IT FIGHT VICIOUSLY TO GET FREE OF THE ROPES, BUT MY PROBLEMS WEREN'T OVER!

THIS IS CRAZY! I'VE GOT TO CALL THE POLICE, BUT THEY WON'T BELIEVE ME... THEY'LL HAVE ME IN THE NUT HOUSE BEFORE I CAN EXPLAIN! NO...NO, I'VE GOT TO PROVE THERE'S SOMETHING IN THOSE ROPES... BUT HOW?

SUDDENLY I GOT AN IDEA...

I'VE GOT IT!! CEMENT... OR PATCHING PLASTER! ANYTHING THAT'LL MAKE THAT THING VISIBLE!

I WAS IN LUCK! I FOUND WHAT I NEEDED IN THE BASEMENT...

THIS IS IT! THIS'LL TURN THE TRICK!

I WENT TO WORK! WHEN DAWN BROKE, THE PLASTER HAD HARDENED LIKE CEMENT AND I LOOKED AT IT...

BRRR! I... CAN'T... BELIEVE IT! THE THING ISN'T HUMAN... AND YET THERE'S LIFE BENEATH THAT PLASTER! I'VE GOT TO CALL THE POLICE!

IN FIVE MINUTES THE ROOM WAS SWARMING WITH BOBBIES...

I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU THINK... IT'S ALL TRUE! THERE IT IS ON THE BED! THAT'S WHAT KILLED MACREADY AND TRIED TO KILL ME!

WELL, WE'LL SOON SEE, YOUNG MAN! BURKE, HAND ME YOUR BILLY!

STOP, YOU FOOL! IF YOU SMASH THAT PLASTER THE THING WILL ESCAPE! IN HEAVEN'S NAME, POST YOUR MEN AT THE DOORS THROUGHOUT THE HOUSE!

NONSENSE! HOLD ON TO THAT BLOKE, WILL YOU, BURKE?

STOP! STOP!

CRASH!

IT'S GETTING AWAY! *STOP IT! STOP IT!*

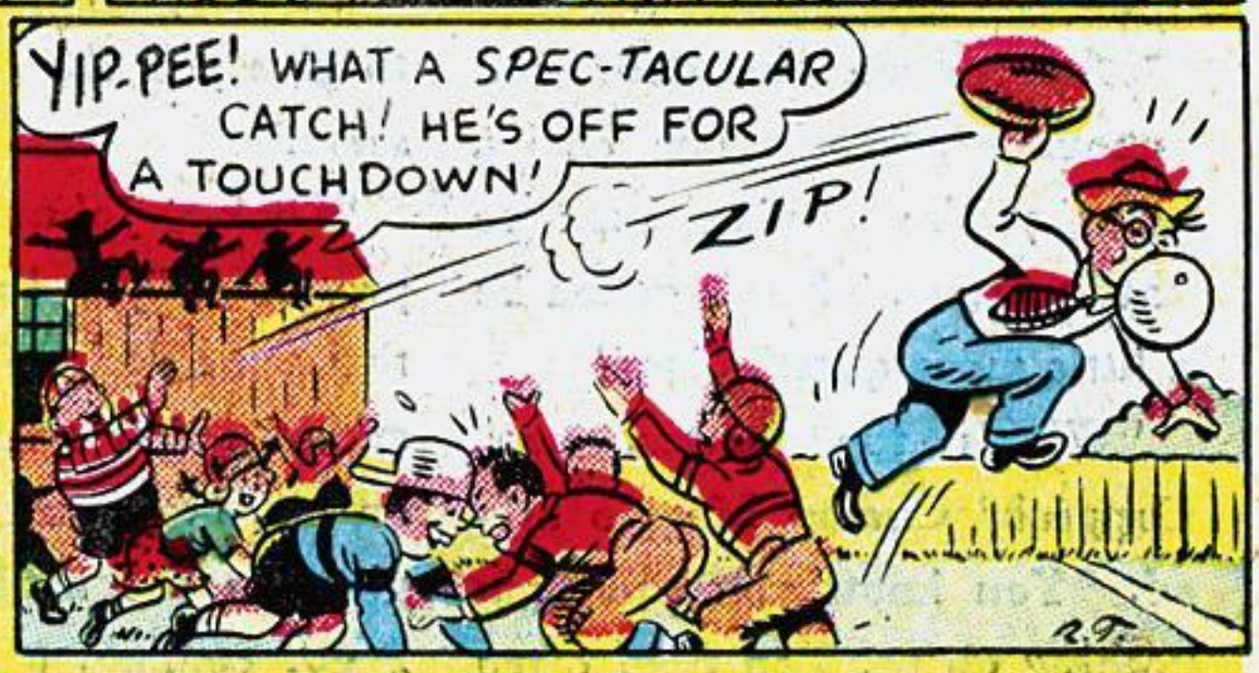
YOU'VE GOT TO BELIEVE ME-- I DIDN'T KILL MACREADY! I'M INNOCENT... INNOCENT! DON'T YOU BELIEVE ME, GENTLEMEN?

I'M SORRY, HARRIS! IT'LL MAKE A GOOD STORY, THOUGH!

IT'S NO USE...NO USE! WHY SHOULD THEY BELIEVE ME? I'VE SEEN THOSE GALLOWS BEFORE... WITH ME HANGING FROM 'EM, AND I DIDN'T BELIEVE IT!

AS I WALK TO MY DEATH, I NOTICE A STRANGE, FANTASTIC THING, UNNOTICED BY ANYONE! MY FOOTSTEPS ARE FOLLOWED BY ANOTHER SET OF PRINTS IN THE SAND... *CLOVEN HOOFPRINTS!*

THE END



WHEN IT COMES TO BLOWING BUBBLES, FLEER'S DUBBLE BUBBLE CAN'T BE BEAT!

STAMPS

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Postal Tax Stamps

UNLIKE postage stamps which are used to pay the cost of carrying a letter from one point to another, postal tax stamps are extra stamps which must be affixed to any letter or piece of mail clearing through a post office. These stamps are actually a tax on the use of the mails and cannot be used for postage. The revenues derived from these postal tax stamps are applied to almost anything which the government might require to obtain funds for. In Mexico, a postal tax was used to provide funds in which to combate a locust plague, while in Guatamala, they have been collecting a postal tax to obtain funds for the building of a new post office. Incidently, in Guatamala, they have been collecting this tax for a new post office ever since 1919 and in 22 years enough funds should have been collected to build a town of post offices.

Postal tax stamps should not be confused with semi-postal stamps which are really a special issue in which an additional sum is added to the regular postage rate in order to produce revenue for some charitable work.

STAMPS 100 YEARS OLD

Every collector should have at least a few stamps nearly 100 years old Although hard to get, we offer a wonderful selection of ten old 19th Century foreign stamps and also the blue re-issue of the 100 year old first U S Stamp, the famous 5c Franklin. All for only 10c Kindly state whether approvals shall consist of U S or foreign stamps or both
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Stamp collectors can easily make a collection of postal tax stamps for they are easy to obtain and cost one cent to a few pennies each.

The following is a partial list of some of the countries of Latin America which have issued postal tax stamps and the purposes of the issues.

Bolivia 1939, for Workers Home Building Fund.

Brazil 1933, for construction of airdromes.

Columbia 1935, for Red Cross Fund, 1939 for new Post Office.

POLICE Lieutenant Johnson flung open the door and announced, "Off your chairs, boys, you're coming back to headquarters. There's gonna be a little more questioning."

"What's the matter, now, Copper?" Champ Maggio asked. "You know you can't pin nothing on us. You tried often enough. Hey, Charlie," he called to Charlie Danner. "Call that stupid mouthpiece, and tell him we're being waltzed down to the jug again. Tell the legal eagle to spring us quick. He's sure earning his keep this month."

"You won't need a lawyer, this is just a questioning," Lieutenant Johnson said.

"Get him anyway. That's what we're payin' him for."

Once at headquarters, the boys opened up on Johnson.

"What's the pitch, Johnson?" asked Maggio. "What've you got on your small, inexperienced mind today?"

"It's this way, Champ. The Elite Insurance Company was disturbed last night for a lot of bonds. They have a good safe, and it was blown open by experts. In fact, the job was done so neatly, that we figured the Maggio mob must've either pulled the heist or maybe they had given lessons to some other crowd. Nobody uses nitro as nice as you, and we just want to give you the credit you deserve."

"Look, Johnson," Champ protested, "you been giving me that same dodge for years now, and you ain't ever hung a heist on me. Now, call in the band, give me the medal I suppose I got coming, and let me go on home. I never heard of the Elite Insurance Company, and I never pulled a heist. I'm a law abiding citizen, and I got my rights. I'll sue you for false arrest as soon as my mouthpiece gets here."

"I got a surprise for you, Champ," Johnson told him. "You and the boys are going to be my guests overnight. There's a little fact finding we got to do, and as long as you have to stay here for so long, you might as well spend all night. I'll let you go tomorrow if you come out in the clear. But I don't think you'll be clear this time. I'm out to get enough on you to send you up the river for good. There was a night watchman killed during that job last night, and if I get a conviction on you for the heist, I'll get you for the murder too. So get in that door there, and the guards will fix you up in a nice comfortable cell."

Maggio and his cronies were taken next door and booked on a suspicion charge, over the heavy protests of them and their lawyer. Lieutenant Johnson was taking a desperate gamble, since the penalty for false arrest would, at the very least, be a black mark against his record which might take him many years to erase. But he had to take that chance!

Champ and the boys didn't know why Johnson wanted them in jail for the night—he could just as well have ordered them not to leave town. But the reason, had it become known to them, would have been startling and very frightening!

A police car whizzed out of the headquarter's garage and raced through town to Maggio's apartment. Out stepped Johnson and three technicians from the police laboratory. They started a routine, systematic search of Maggio's apartment with various mysterious-looking apparati, and subjected hardware, clothing, and all the things you might find in a man's home to intensive chemical examination. When they were finished, everything was restored to its natural place, and no one would ever suspect that such an examination had taken place.

The next day, Johnson appeared at the District Attorney's office and presented his evi-

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NAME .....

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CITY ..... STATE .....

dence and Maggio and the gang were freed. But a few days later, they were arrested formally, and arraigned on charges of burglary and murder. Indictment swiftly followed, and the boys were soon on trial for their lives.

"Court will come to order," was the command that started the tense procedure that thrilled newspaper readers from coast to coast.

The prosecution called several routine witnesses, and then, with no apparent case against Maggio, and to the surprise of the court, the prosecution rested. It seemed as if there had been no case made against the gang which could convict them of anything. The defense took over and prepared to have a field day. The first witness called was Maggio, himself.

He was sworn in, and then his attorney asked him, "Where were you on the night of the Insurance company hold-up and murder?"

"At the Bijou movie house."

"What is your business?"

"I have an independent income."

"Are you in any way involved with the case under discussion in this trial, or have you ever willfully perpetrated any dishonest act?"

"No, sir. All I know about any of these cases is what I seen in the newspapers."

"Your witness."

With that, the defense lawyer turned Maggio over to the D.A. for cross examination. He had with his questions unknowingly opened the way for the D.A. to ask all the questions he had prepared. The rapid fire questioning failed to shake Maggio's story. He remained calm, until the D.A. called for a pistol on his table, and showed it to Maggio.

"Ever see this pistol before?"

"Er . . . yes . . . it's mine."

The D.A. turned to the bench and read a report attached to an official looking clipboard:

"'. . . and it is proven beyond doubt that the watchman was killed by a bullet from pistol S&W 87559476.' Will the witness read me the number off the pistol he acknowledges to be his own."

Maggio took the pistol, and with shaky hands, he held it close to his eyes as he read, "S&W 87559476."

The District Attorney changed to another subject. An assistant brought to him a suit, neatly pressed, and on a hanger. To Maggio, he said. "Do you, Mr. Maggio, recognize this suit?"

"Yes, it's mine."

Again the D.A. read to the courtroom:

"The lint found on the jagged edges of the blown up safe undoubtedly came from the suit labeled 'Hart's Clothes for Men,' and found in the apartment of F. J. Maggio."

"Witness dismissed!" Maggio left the stand, and the D.A. read still another report.

"With the court's permission, I have just one more report to submit. It has been found that the cigarette stamped out on the floor of the Insurance Company was *smoked by F. J. Maggio.*"

Maggio and his henchmen were speedily convicted of murder and gave their lives in payment for their heinous crime.

A gun, a brown tweed suit, and a stamped out cigarette had woven a web of guilt around the head of Champ Maggio. But the unsung heroes of this and so many other fantastic crime solutions were the quietly working chemists and physicists of the police laboratories. They added further proof to the old adage that *Crime Can't Win.*

THE END 5486

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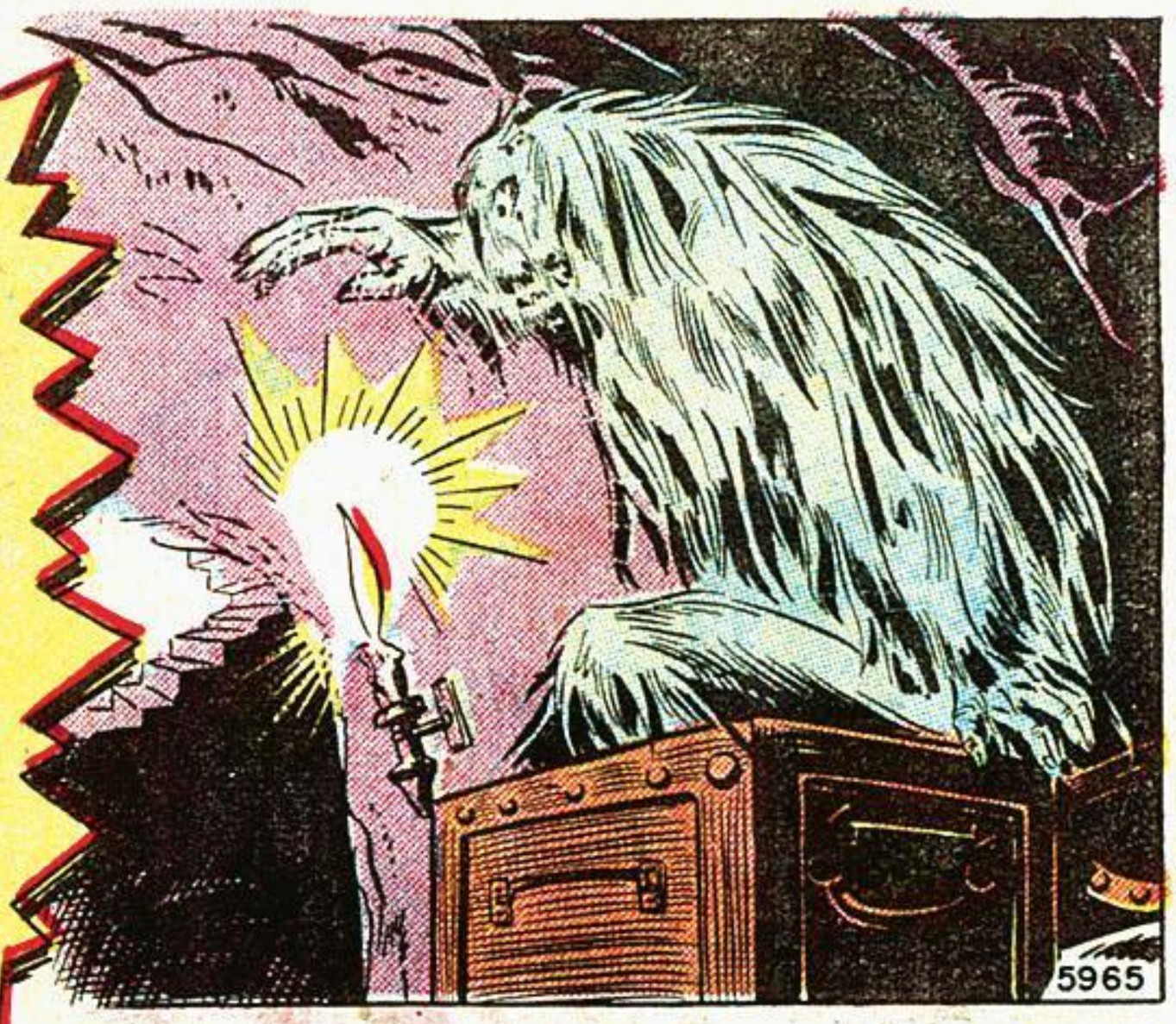
THE THING IN THE CHEST!



ENGLAND IN 1426, A LAND OF CONTRASTS, OF POVERTY AND BEAUTY, OF CHARM AND MISERY! LIFE WAS HARD FOR THE COMMON PEOPLE AND FOR SOME OF THEM THE ONLY FORM OF ESCAPE AND RELAXATION WAS THE THEATER... ESPECIALLY THE STROLLING PLAYERS WHO PERFORMED IN EVERY VILLAGE AND TOWN HALL!

OYEZ! OYEZ! TONIGHT AT THE TOWN HALL... MISTER BEN JACKSON PRESENTS HIS COMPANY OF NOTED ACTORS AND ACTRESSES IN A FAMOUS AND ASTOUNDING DRAMA! *OYEZ! OYEZ!*

BEN JACKSON HAD A GREAT LOVE FOR TWO THINGS... THE THEATER AND NANCY TERRY, HIS LEADING LADY...

NANCY, I'VE WRITTEN A NEW PLAY, JUST FOR YOU! YOU'LL BE PERFECT IN THE PART!

HMMM... "PANDORA'S BOX"! WHAT IS IT ABOUT, BEN?

IT'S BASED ON AN ANCIENT MYTH, PET! YOU SEE, PANDORA WAS A LOVELY GIRL... BUT NOT AS LOVELY AS YOU... AND SHE WAS GIVEN A BOX TO GUARD! SHE WASN'T TOLD WHAT WAS IN IT, BUT WAS WARNED NOT TO OPEN IT, IN PAIN OF GREAT DANGER!

WHAT A WARNING TO GIVE TO A WOMAN!

"TRUE, BECAUSE HER WOMAN'S CURIOSITY MADE HER WONDER ABOUT THE MYSTERIOUS CONTENTS! SHE LISTENED CLOSELY BUT COULD HEAR NOTHING IN IT!

ALL NAMES AND PLACES IN THIS TRUE-TO-LIFE STORY ARE FICTITIOUS
ANY SIMILARITY BETWEEN ACTUAL PERSONS OR PLACES AND THOSE USED IN THIS STORY IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL

" THE MORE SHE LOOKED AT IT, THE GREATER WAS HER CURIOSITY! THEN, SHE THOUGHT...

AT COULD BE SO TERRIBLE IN THAT INNO-NT-LOOKING BOX? I'LL LIFT THE LID JUST EE BIT AND PEER INSIDE! SURELY *THAT* WON'T DO ANY HARM!

"SO, TINGLING WITH EXCITEMENT, SHE CAUTIOUSLY OPENED THE BOX! BUT...

IT'S SO DARK INSIDE, I CAN'T SEE A THING! I'LL OPEN IT JUST A LITTLE MORE!

"BUT WHEN SHE RAISED THE LID HIGHER, SHE JUMPED BACK IN HORROR AND ALARM! OUT OF THE BOX CAME EVIL-LOOKING, FOREBODING CREATURES! THEY WERE THE SPIRITS OF *GREED, HATE, FEAR, AND WAR!*

"QUICKLY SHE SLAMMED DOWN THE LID, BUT THE EVIL WAS DONE! THE PESTILENCE OF EVIL WAS LOOSE ON THE EARTH! THE WICKED POWERS WERE FREE TO PLAGUE THE EARTH FROM THAT DAY ON! AFRAID AND TREMBLING AT THE DISASTER SHE HAD CAUSED, PANDORA ALMOST WENT OUT OF HER MIND!

OH! WHAT HAVE I DONE! MY CURIOSITY HAS CHANGED THE EARTH FROM A PLACE OF PEACE TO ONE OF FEAR AND UNCERTAINTY!

"BUT THEN THERE CAME A VOICE FROM THE BOX, A SMALL VOICE.... SWEET AND TENDER..."

I AM STILL IN HERE, PANDORA! AND AS LONG AS MANKIND HAS *ME*, ALL IS NOT LOST!

WHO... WHO ARE YOU? ARE YOU ANOTHER SPIRIT OF DISASTER?

NO, PANDORA! I AM *HOPE*! HOPE FOR HAPPINESS, FOR JOY! I WILL KEEP BATTLING FOREVER AGAINST GREED, HATE, FEAR, AND WAR! YOU MUST NEVER LOSE *ME*... YOU MUST NEVER LOSE... *HOPE*!

AS BEN FINISHED THE STORY NANCY COULD NOT SUPPRESS THE SHUDDER THAN RAN THROUGH HER!

IT'S SO...STRANGE, BEN! SO UNREAL AND TERRIFYING!

AND THE AUDIENCE WILL EAT IT UP! AND LOOK--I'VE FOUND THE PERFECT BOX TO USE IN THE PLAY!

A GYPSY GAVE IT TO ME IN EXCHANGE FOR SOME FOOD I GAVE HIM! THAT BOX GAVE ME THE IDEA FOR THE PLAY! STUDY THE PART WELL, NANCY--WE'LL PUT THE PLAY ON AS SOON AS YOU'RE READY!

VERY WELL, BEN! BUT...IT ALMOST SEEMS TO ME THAT WE SHOULDN'T DO IT! I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT...

NANCY'S FEARS WERE FORGOTTEN IN LEARNING THE PLAY! THEN, A WEEK LATER, THE TOWN CRIER ANNOUNCED...

OYEZ! OYEZ! HEAR YE! THE MOST SPECTACULAR... THE MOST OPULENT OF ALL BEN JACKSON'S DRAMAS ...FOR THE FIRST TIME ANYWHERE...TONIGHT AT THE VILLAGE MEETING PLACE! SEE THE GREAT TALE OF MYSTERY, "PANDORA'S BOX"! *HEAR YE! HEAR YE!*

BEN WATCHED FROM THE WINGS AS THE DRAMA UNFOLDED! THE PERFORMANCE WAS GOING SMOOTHLY...

REMEMBER, PANDORA, GUARD THIS BOX WITH YOUR LIFE, AND... *DO NOT OPEN IT,* OR DESTRUCTION WILL BEFALL MANKIND!

THE AUDIENCE SAT ENTHRALLED, THEIR EYES WIDENING AS PANDORA YIELDED TO THE IMPULSE TO OPEN THE BOX!

JUST A QUICK GLANCE AND THEN I'LL CLOSE IT AGAIN! THERE'LL BE NO HARM IN THAT, SURELY!

BUT AS SHE OPENED IT, A TERRIFYING, UNEARTHLY SCREAM SPLIT THE AIR OF THE THEATER! AND... *THE SCREAM CAME FROM INSIDE THE BOX!*

EEEEEEEEEEE

EE EEEEEE!

AS NANCY DREW BACK IN REAL TERROR, A SINISTER, WEIRD CREATURE CAME OUT OF THE BOX.! IT BECAME LARGER AND LARGER, EYES GLEAMING WITH HATE, FANGS BARED IN FURIOUS ANGER.!

GREAT BLAZES.! THAT *CAN'T* BE PART OF THE PLAY.!

IT'S REAL! IT'S REAL!

PARALYZED WITH FEAR, NANCY COULD NOT MOVE.! HER BODY FROZE IN TERROR AS THE *THING* FIXED ITS RED EYES ON HER PALE FACE.! BEN, TOO, WAS TOO STUNNED TO MOVE.!

WHAT IS THIS?! WHAT ON EARTH IS *THAT* CREATURE?

THE BOX LID SLAMMED SHUT AND THE AUDIENCE AROSE AS ONE MAN TO FIGHT ITS WAY OUT, AWAY FROM THE GHASTLY *THING* THAT WAS ON THE STAGE.! THE THEATER WAS A BEDLAM OF SCREAMS AND SHOUTS OF HORROR AS THEY CLAWED THEIR WAY TO THE OUTDOORS.!

EEEEH! HELP! HELP! EEEAAH!

BEN SNAPPED OUT OF HIS DAZE, TO RUSH FORWARD AND TRY TO GET NANCY OUT OF THE PRESENCE OF THE APPARITION!

NANCY! DON'T STAND THERE! GET AWAY... QUICKLY.! LOOK OUT! LOOK OUT!

BUT THE THING HAD TAKEN THE SHAPE OF A BLACK VAPOROUS CLOUD, ENVELOPING THE RIGID FIGURE OF NANCY.!...

NO! NO! OH, MERCIFUL HEAVENS! NO!

THEN, IN ANOTHER MOMENT, THE CLOUD AND NANCY HAD BOTH VANISHED, LEAVING THE STAGE BARE EXCEPT FOR THE GRIEF-STRICKEN FIGURE OF BEN JACKSON.!

SHE'S GONE! MY NANCY IS GONE.! BUT... WHERE? WHERE HAS SHE BEEN TAKEN? AND... *BY WHAT?*

THE FULL, HORRIBLE REALIZATION CAME TO BEN, AND HE STARED AT THE BOX THAT HAD BROUGHT THE CALAMITY TO PASS!

CAN IT BE? CAN THIS BOX HAVE THE SAME POWERS OF GOOD AND EVIL AS THE ONE IN THE MYTH OF PANDORA? IF THE SPIRIT OF *EVIL* WAS LOCKED INSIDE, THEN THAT OF *HOPE* MAY STILL BE THERE!

HIS HANDS TREMBLING, BEN SLOWLY LIFTED THE LID!

I *MUST* FIND OUT! I MUST TAKE THE CHANCE! IT'S THE ONLY WAY I CAN TRY TO FIND NANCY! BUT...WHAT IF I AM *WRONG*? WHAT IF *ANOTHER HORROR* COMES OUT?

BEN DREW BACK, READY TO FLEE, BUT THE SPIRIT THAT CAME OUT OF THE BOX THIS TIME WAS THAT OF A BEAUTIFUL GIRL!

BEN JACKSON, YOU HAD THE COURAGE TO OPEN THIS BOX AGAIN AND FOR THAT I SHALL REWARD YOU! *COME!* I WILL TAKE YOU TO YOUR NANCY!

BEFORE HE HAD A CHANCE TO SPEAK A WORD, BEN FOUND HIMSELF WHIRLING IN A WEIRD MAELSTROM OF FIRE AND FURY, OF DARKNESS AND LIGHT, OF WIND AND THUNDER!

DO NOT FEAR! ALL WILL BE WELL!

...BUT WHERE ARE WE GOING?

INTO THE *UNKNOWN*, BEN JACKSON... INTO THE PLACE THAT *DOES NOT* EXIST! INTO THE FURTHEST REACHES OF SPACE... INTO THE LAST MOMENTS OF TIME!

HERE, WHERE NO LIGHT EVER ENTERS, IS WHERE *THE THING* HAS TAKEN YOUR NANCY! IF YOU ARE WILLING TO FACE ITS FURY, BEN JACKSON... *ENTER!*

I WILL FACE ANYTHING FOR HER! EVEN *DEATH!*

AS THEY ENTERED THE CAVERNS OF DARKNESS, THEY HEARD A HOLLOW VOICE ECHOING IN DISMAL GLOOM...

SAY YOU WILL LOOK AT ME WITH THE EYES OF LOVE, O DAUGHTER OF EARTH AND SUN! IF YOU WILL CONSENT TO DO THIS, YOU WILL BRING BEAUTY TO THIS UGLY BODY OF MINE! I WILL CHANGE INTO THE HANDSOMEST OF MEN! *SAY IT! SAY IT!*

NEVER! NEVER! NEVER!

YOU ARE *EVIL* AND YOU SHALL NEVER KNOW LOVE! THAT IS RESERVED ONLY FOR THE GOOD... THE PURE IN HEART!

YES! I AM *EVIL*... AND SINCE YOU WILL NOT DO AS I SAY, YOU WILL REMAIN HERE UNTIL THE END OF OUR DAYS! WITH *ME!*

BEN HAD HEARD ENOUGH! HE RAN TO NANCY'S SIDE AND TOOK HER IN HIS ARMS!

BEN! OH, MY DARLING! YOU'VE FOUND ME!

YES, NANCY! AND IF THIS MONSTER MEANS TO KEEP YOU HERE, HE'LL HAVE TO KEEP *ME*, TOO! OR... *KILL BOTH OF US!*

WHEN THE THING BEHELD THE SIGHT OF THE LOVERS IN EACH OTHER'S ARMS, HE RAGED IN FRUSTRATED FURY!

OHHHHH! WHY CANNOT *I* KNOW SUCH LOVE? WHY MUST I BE DENIED THAT WHICH IS GRANTED THE MOST ORDINARY MORTAL?

NOT FOR *YOU!* NOT FOR EVIL! GNASH YOUR TEETH, CREATURE OF DARKNESS! *RAGE! SCREAM!* BUT YOU WILL NEVER KNOW *LOVE!*

THEN...I SHALL *DESTROY THEM!* THAT AT LEAST WILL GIVE ME SATISFACTION!

BUT WHILE THE THING WAS SCREAMING IN HIS FURY, THE TWO LOVERS HAD VANISHED!

WHERE ARE THEY? *GONE! GONE!* BUT I SHALL GET HER BACK! *THE BOX!* I MUST GET TO *THE BOX!*

TO THEIR AMAZEMENT, NANCY AND BEN FOUND THEMSELVES ONCE MORE ON THE STAGE!

BEN! WHAT HAPPENED? HOW DID WE GET HERE? DID I IMAGINE ALL THAT HAS HAPPENED?

NO, MY DARLING! IT WAS ALL TRUE...*TOO* TRUE! BUT IT'S OVER NOW, THANK GOODNESS!

SUDDENLY!

BEN! THE BOX! THAT HORRIBLE BOX! IT'S STILL HERE AND...

I KNOW! IT'S THE ONLY WAY THAT EVIL THING CAN COME BACK TO US! WAIT! I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT!

OUTSIDE A GREAT BONFIRE WAS RAGING, BURNING THE DAILY COLLECTION OF WASTE! INTO THIS FIRE BEN HURLED THE BOX!

THERE! EVIL TO FIRE! *PERISH FOREVER!*

BEN... LISTEN!

AND OUT OF THE DEPTHS OF THE BLAZE CAME AN AWFUL SCREAM, A CRY OF *EVIL*, OF *RAGE*, OF *DEATH!*

EEEEEEEEEEEEE!

THEN ALL WAS STILL AGAIN, SAVE FOR THE CRACKLING OF THE FLAMES, AND BEN HELD NANCY CLOSE TO HIM!

BEN, HOW DID YOU FIND ME? HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO FOLLOW ME INTO THE UNKNOWN?

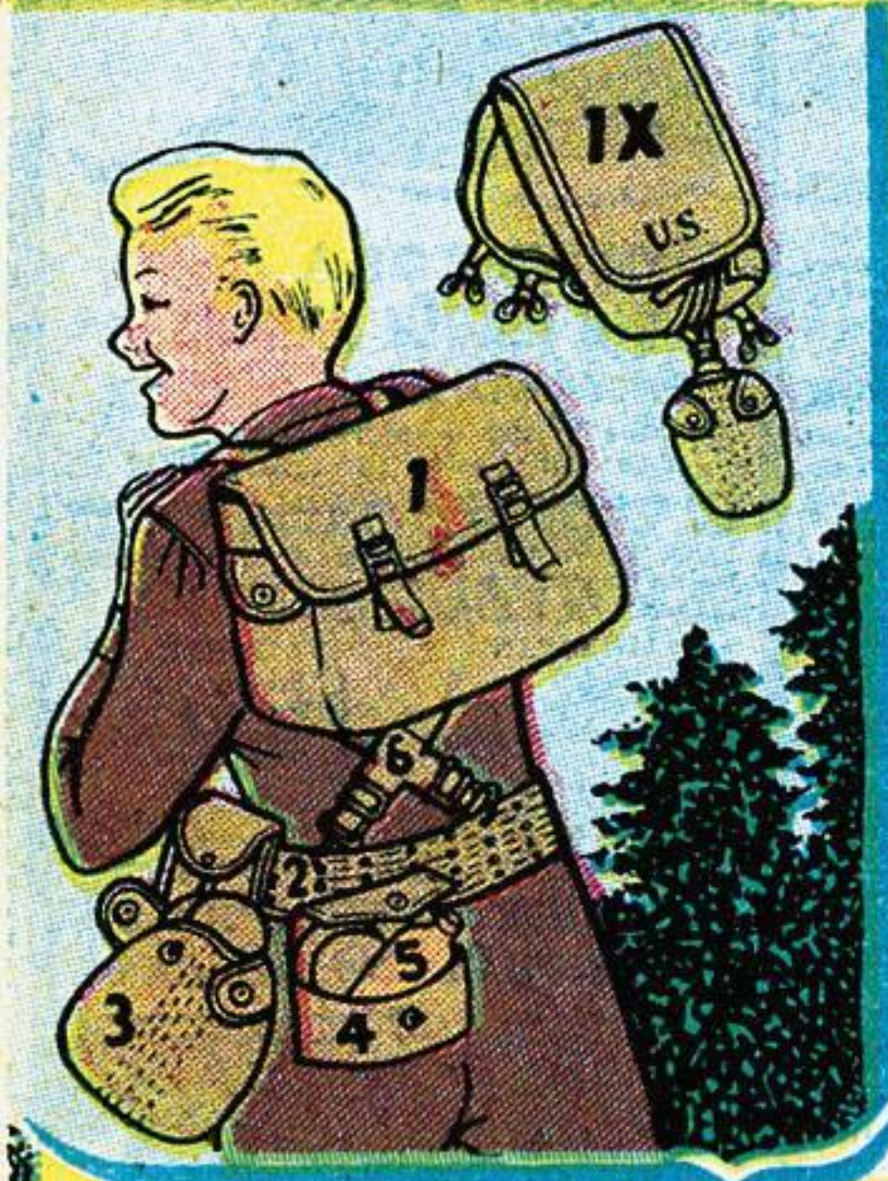
IT WAS *HOPE*, NANCY!

AS LONG AS WE HAVE *THAT*, AS LONG AS *HOPE* IS IN THE WORLD, WE NEED HAVE NO FEAR OF *ANYTHING!*

AND AS THE FLAMES DIED DOWN, THE SMOKE DRIFTED AWAY, TAKING WITH IT ALL THAT REMAINED OF THE MYSTERIOUS BOX!

THE END

While They Last CHRISTMAS GIFT BARGAINS IN U. S. ARMY WAR SURPLUS CAMPING GEAR



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SCB Heavy Canvas Army Commando Bag with adjustable shoulder strap (exact dimensions are 10" length, 6¼" wide x 2¾" thick).

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B) 1. Musette Bag with shoulder strap

plus: (see illustration)

2. Pistol Belt
3. Canteen Case
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5. 2 oz. bottle Insect Repellent
6. 6 Snap Clip Suspender Belt

ALL 6 used perfect ITEMS ONLY $1.95 POST PAID

CHRISTMAS BONUS!

B12SP — If you'll pay postage we'll also send you all above, *plus* 6 — ½ lb cans of IMPREGNITE (a $3.00 value—see below)

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THE FAMOUS INFANTRY FIELD PACK

C) 1X. Haversack with Mess Kit Case

plus: (see illustration)

2. Pistol Belt
3. Canteen Case
4. 1st-Aid Pouch
5. 2 oz. bottle Insect Repellent
6. Haversack has 6 snap clips which hook into pistol belt.

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CHRISTMAS BONUS!

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- ☐ C12SP. Infantry Field Pack with Impregnite $1.65 postage collect
- ☐ 15. (16 pockets) Air Corps Vest . . . . . $2.25 postpaid
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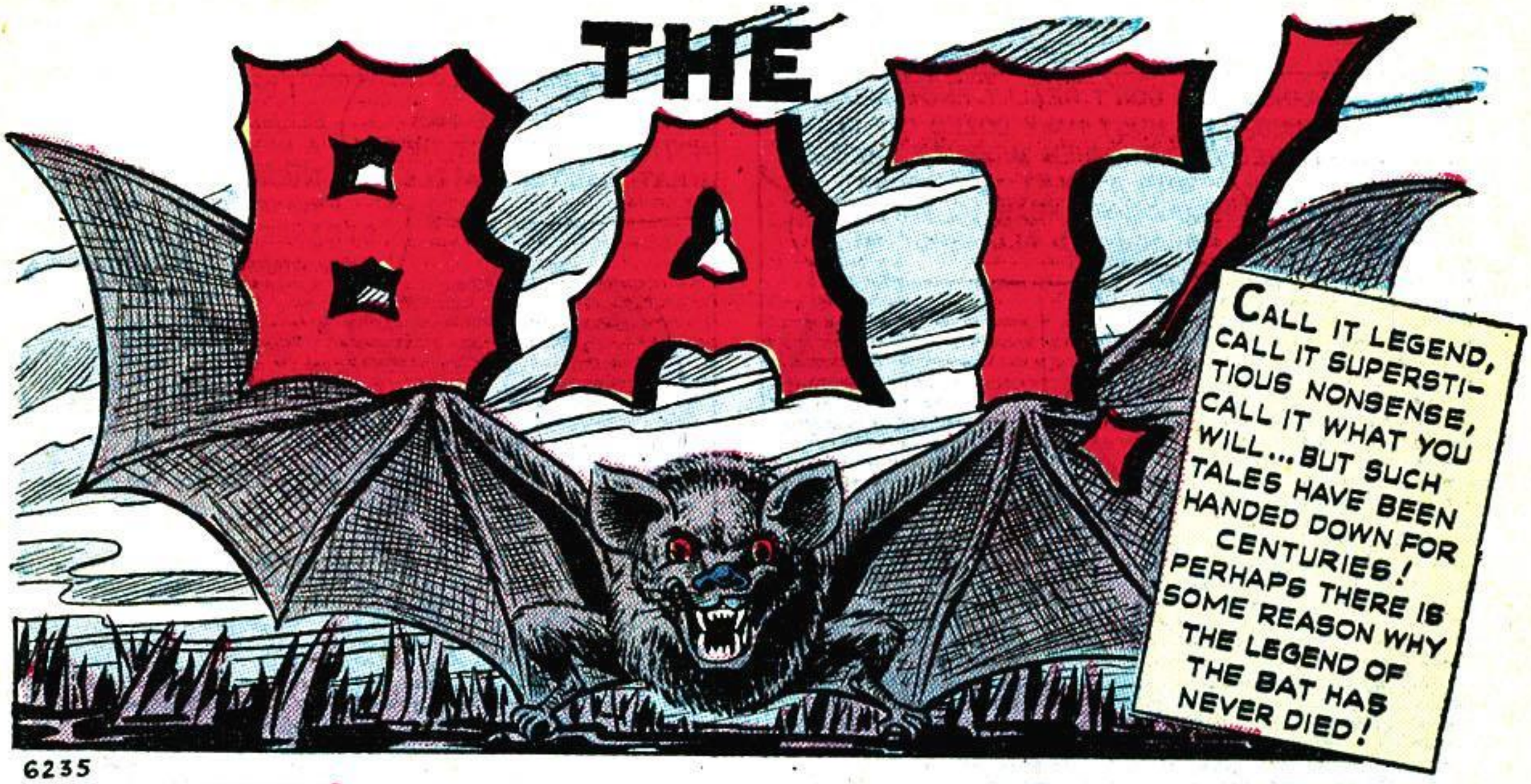
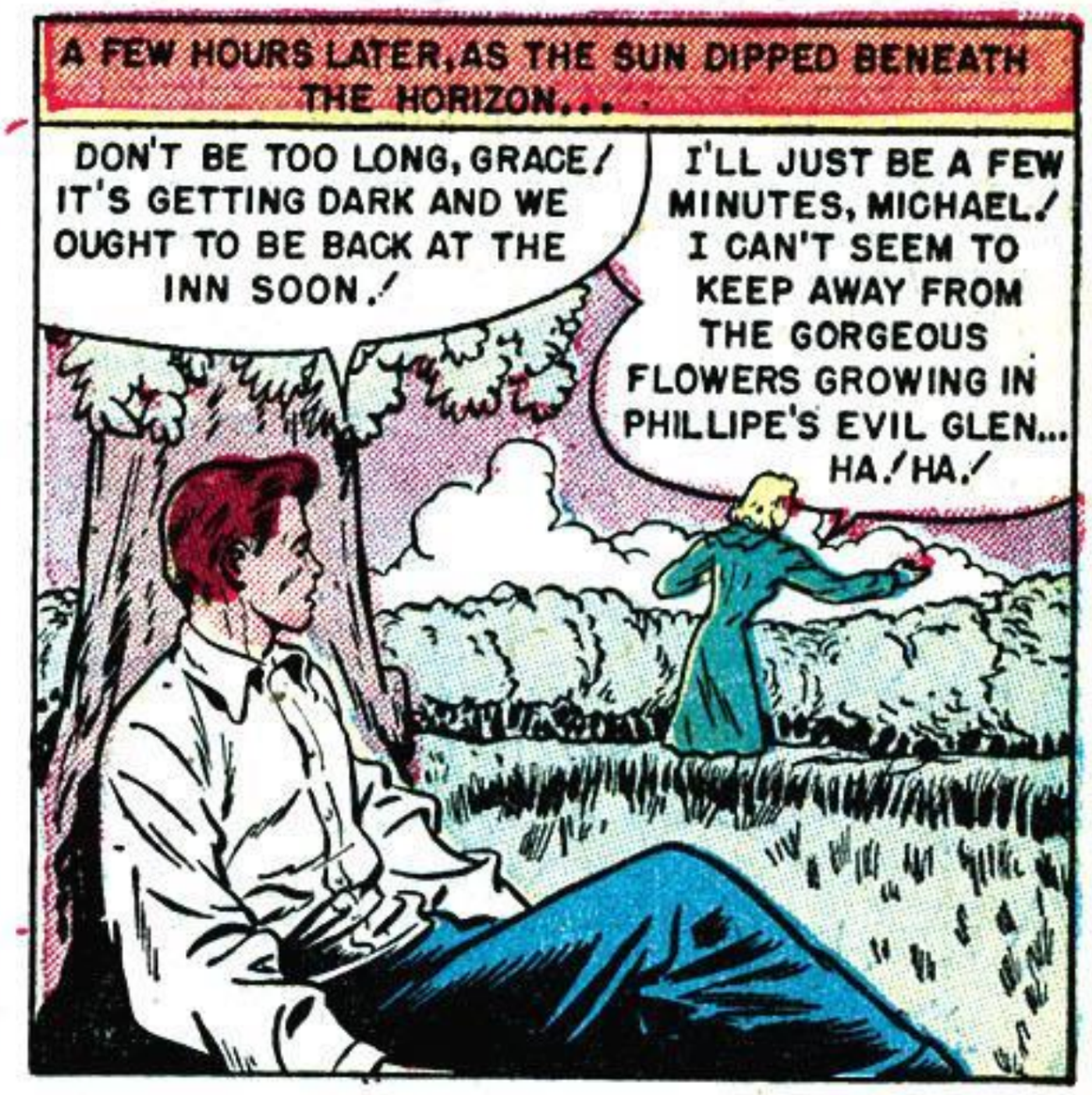
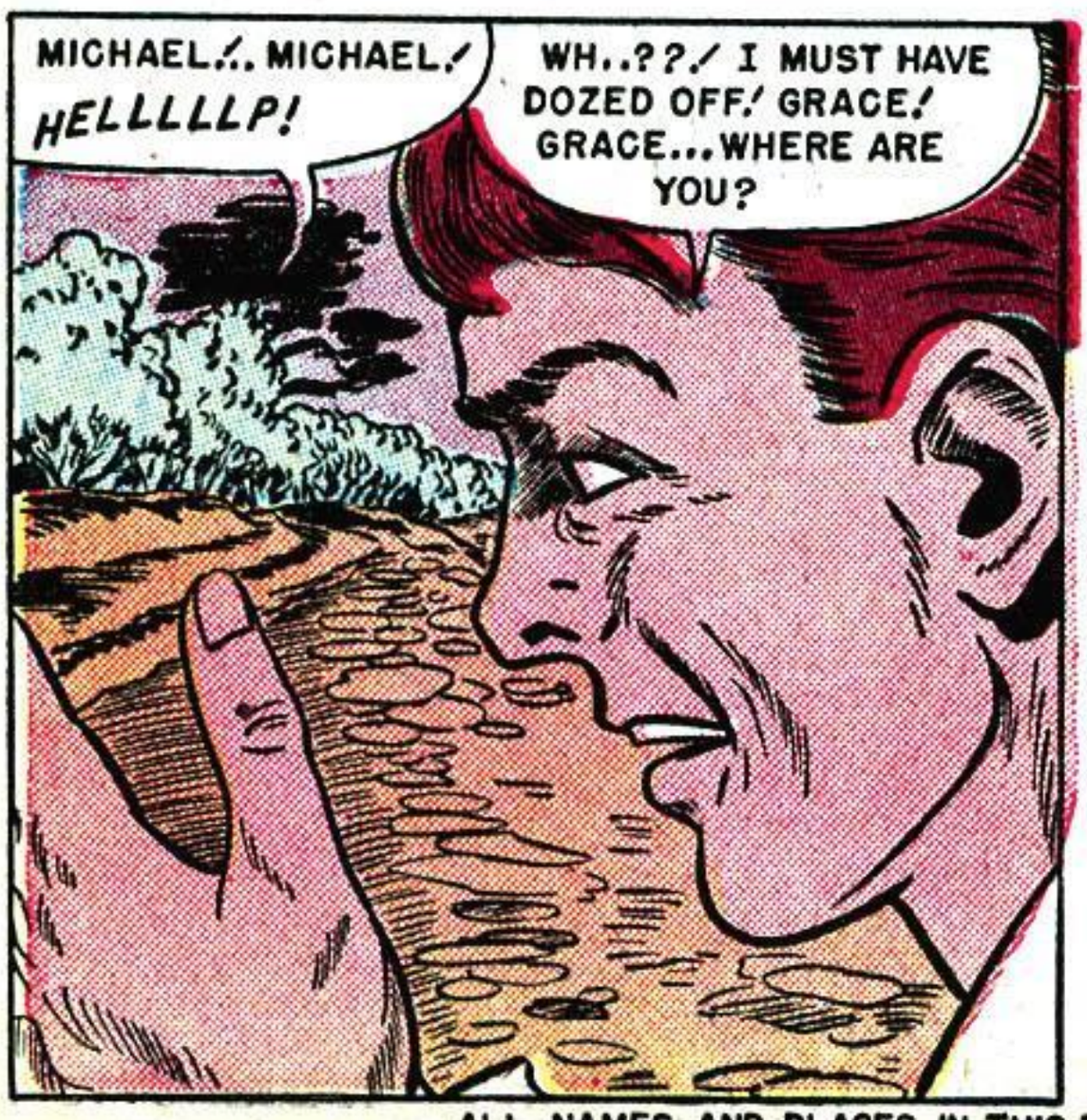
THE BAT!


CALL IT LEGEND, CALL IT SUPERSTITIOUS NONSENSE, CALL IT WHAT YOU WILL... BUT SUCH TALES HAVE BEEN HANDED DOWN FOR CENTURIES! PERHAPS THERE IS SOME REASON WHY THE LEGEND OF THE BAT HAS NEVER DIED!

6235

IN THE SUMMER OF 1927 A YOUNG AMERICAN COUPLE, TOURING SPAIN, STOPPED AT THE QUAINT LITTLE VILLAGE OF BRIHUEGA...
YOU MAY GO FOR YOUR WALK, MY YOUNG LOVERS, BUT REMEMBER WHAT PHILLIPE SAYS AND STAY AWAY FROM THAT EVIL GLEN./
NONSENSE./ THE MOST BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS GROW IN THAT GLEN AND BESIDES, WE DON'T BELIEVE IN YOUR SILLY OLD SUPERSTITIONS./


A FEW HOURS LATER, AS THE SUN DIPPED BENEATH THE HORIZON...
DON'T BE TOO LONG, GRACE/ IT'S GETTING DARK AND WE OUGHT TO BE BACK AT THE INN SOON./
I'LL JUST BE A FEW MINUTES, MICHAEL./ I CAN'T SEEM TO KEEP AWAY FROM THE GORGEOUS FLOWERS GROWING IN PHILLIPE'S EVIL GLEN... HA./HA./



ALL NAMES AND PLACES IN THIS TRUE-TO-LIFE STORY ARE FICTITIOUS
ANY SIMILARITY BETWEEN ACTUAL PERSONS OR PLACES AND THOSE USED IN THIS STORY IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL

GRACE DARLING, WHAT HAPPENED? WHAT FRIGHTENED YOU SO?

I DON'T REALLY KNOW, MICHAEL! I MUST HAVE DOZED OFF IN THE GLEN, WHEN SUDDENLY I AWOKE WITH A START--THE WEIRD SOUNDS OF A FEARFUL BATTLE RESOUNDED ALL ABOUT ME!

BUT HOW COULD IT BE POSSIBLE? THERE WAS NOTHING WHEN I GOT THERE! WHAT WAS THIS BATTLE?

I DON'T KNOW! I SEEMED ENVELOPED IN A HIDEOUS BLACKNESS! THERE WAS THE FLAPPING OF WINGS, AND STRANGE CRIES LIKE SOME EVIL ANIMALS FIGHTING--FOR *BLOOD!*

THAT NIGHT THEY SAT BEFORE A CHEERY FIRE...

LET ME TELL YOU A LITTLE STORY, MY CHILDREN! IT CONCERNS A MAN WHO WAS KNOWN AS THE DUKE FERNANDO DE TOLEDANO! HE DIED ALMOST THREE HUNDRED YEARS AGO... PERHAPS IT WILL EXPLAIN WHAT HAPPENED TODAY!

WE'LL LISTEN TO YOUR STORY, PHILLIPE! IT MAY HELP QUIET GRACE'S NERVES!

NO, IT WON'T DO THAT! BUT LET ME CONTINUE! OVER THREE HUNDRED YEARS AGO ALL THE SURROUNDING COUNTRYSIDE BELONGED TO THE GAY YOUNG NOBLEMAN--DUKE FERNANDO DE TOLEDANO--WHO WAS BELOVED BY HIS PEOPLE FOR HIS GOOD NATURE, CAREFREE WAYS AND GENEROUS MANNERS!

ONE SUMMER DAY THE DUKE AND HIS FRIENDS WERE SEPARATED WHILE HUNTING A HUGE WILD BOAR...

THE OTHERS WILL MISS ALL THE FUN! HO! THE RASCAL IS TRYING TO GET AWAY! SAY YOUR PRAYERS, SENOR BOAR!

EH? THE JAVELIN HAS FOUND ITS MARK BUT HE STILL RUNS! I MAY LOSE HIM IF HE DOESN'T FALL SOON!

"AN HOUR LATER, THE DUKE FOUND THE BOAR LYING IN A WOODED GLEN. . .

WH...??/ THAT'S ODD,/ THE JAVELIN WOUND IS BARELY BLEEDING AND A SLIGHT TRICKLE OF BLOOD COMES FROM STRANGE WOUNDS IN HIS THROAT./

"PUZZLED BY THE STRANGE INCIDENT, THE DUKE WAS ABOUT TO LEAVE, WHEN. . .

SENOR... PLEASE HELP ME./ OHHHH.../

WH...??/ ... WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?

SHE HAS FAINTED./ THIS IS INDEED STRANGE./ FIRST THE BOAR WITH THE BLOOD SEEMINGLY DRAINED FROM HIM, AND NOW THIS... I MUST GET HER TO THE CASTLE./

"IN THE DUKE'S ANCESTRAL CASTLE, THE MYSTERIOUS WOMAN RALLIED QUICKLY...

I MUST APOLOGIZE FOR MY SILLY FAINTING, SENOR./ I WAS LOST IN THE FOREST AND BECAME TERRIFIED WHEN I SAW THE WOUNDED BOAR PASS ME./ I AM THE COUNTESS DOLORES IBANEZ OF PORTUGAL./

PLEASE ACCEPT THE HOSPITALITY OF MY HOME, COUNTESS./ MY NAME IS FERNANDO DE TOLEDANO, DUKE OF GUADALAJARA./ I AM A BACHELOR, SO I BEG YOUR INDULGENCE OF THESE CRUDE SURROUNDINGS./

"THE DUKE FELL DEEPLY IN LOVE WITH THE GORGEOUS COUNTESS AND, DESPITE THE MISGIVINGS OF HIS ACQUAINTANCES OVER HER SHADOWY BACKGROUND AND HAZY LINEAGE, THEY WERE MARRIED WITH GREAT CEREMONY A SHORT TIME LATER! THE WEDDING BALL WAS A BRILLIANT AFFAIR AT WHICH ALL THE NOBILITY OF SPAIN WERE PRESENT! THE BEAUTY OF THE NEW DUCHESS DE TOLEDANO CAPTIVATED THE ENTIRE ASSEMBLY!

AH, DOLORES, I WANT YOU TO KNOW AND LOVE MY VERY DEAREST FRIEND AND NEIGHBOR./ COUNT RAMON DE LA CRUZ, THIS IS MY PRECIOUS JEWEL, DOLORES DE TOLEDANO./

I AM CHARMED./ MAY I STEAL YOU FROM YOUR HUSBAND LONG ENOUGH TO HAVE ONE DANCE WITH YOU?

"HALF AN HOUR LATER. . .

I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU, DARLING./ I THOUGHT YOU WERE DANCING IN THE BALLROOM./

IT GREW RATHER CLOSE INSIDE, SO I STEPPED INTO THE GARDEN FOR A BIT OF FRESH AIR./ IT'S BEAUTIFUL OUTSIDE--A FULL MOON IS SHINING./

WH...?! WHAT'S THAT ON YOUR NECK? BLOOD! HAVE YOU HURT YOURSELF?

NO! IT IS NOTHING, MY DEAR--JUST A SCRATCH! LET US RETURN TO THE BALLROOM!

"BUT, A FEW MINUTES LATER...

EXCUSE ME, FERNANDO! I WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK WITH YOU...OUTSIDE!

CERTAINLY, RAMON! HAVE YOU QUARRELED WITH SOME BEAUTIFUL LADY?

WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN THE BEST OF FRIENDS, FERNANDO! I DO NOT WISH TO MAR THIS HAPPY NIGHT, BUT THERE IS SOMETHING YOU MUST KNOW!

WELL, SPEAK UP, FERNANDO! I MUST GET BACK TO MY BRIDE!

FOR YOUR OWN SAKE AND THE SAKE OF YOUR FRIENDS, YOU MUST SEND THIS WOMAN, DOLORES, AWAY FROM YOUR HOUSE AT ONCE! SHE IS AN EVIL PERSON WHO WILL BRING DEATH AND DISGRACE TO THE NAME OF DE TOLEDANO!

WHAT? ARE YOU MAD? HOW DARE YOU SPEAK TO ME LIKE THIS? FOR WHAT REASON?

YOUR BRIDE IS A VAMPIRE, FERNANDO! SHE IS A COLD, BLOODLESS CREATURE WHO PREYS ON THE LIVING TO MAINTAIN HER OWN LIFE!

STOP, YOU MISERABLE DOG! YOU DARE TO BESMIRCH THE NAME OF MY WIFE WITH SUCH EVIL GOSSIP? I DEMAND THE SATISFACTION THAT ONLY A DUEL CAN GIVE!

"A DUEL WAS ARRANGED A WEEK LATER! THE DUKE DE TOLEDANO, ONE OF EUROPE'S MOST FAMOUS SWORDSMEN, MADE SHORT WORK OF HIS BEST FRIEND, COUNT RAMON DE LA CRUZ!

WITH SAVAGE THRUSTS HE FORCED HIS OPPONENT AGAINST THE GARDEN WALL, AND...

ARRRGH!

LET YOUR GOSSIPING LIPS BE STILL FOREVER!!

I...FORGIVE YOU, FERNANDO! I HOPE YOUR LOVE...FOR THE DUCHESS WILL NOT BLIND YOU TOO LONG TO HER TRUE CHARACTER... OHHHH!

AND I ONCE THOUGHT YOU MY FRIEND--YOU LYING GOSSIP-MONGER!

MONTHS PASSED AND THE NEWLYWEDS LIVED IN LOVING BLISS UNTIL, ON A VISIT TO THE CASTLE OF BARON DIEGO MENDOZA...

YOU LOOK PALE, DARLING! IS ANYTHING TROUBLING YOU?

PALE? I DIDN'T SLEEP TOO WELL LAST NIGHT, FERNANDO! I'LL RETIRE EARLY TONIGHT!

AFTER DINNER...

THE CUSTOM OF SLEEPING WITH CLOSED WINDOWS IS A TERRIBLE ONE! AS FOR MYSELF, I KEEP MY WINDOWS WIDE OPEN, WINTER AND SUMMER!

HOW INTERESTING!

THAT NIGHT... AS THE DUKE SLEPT...

HE NOTICED MY PALLOR TONIGHT! TOMORROW MORNING THE COLOR SHALL HAVE RETURNED TO MY CHEEKS!

HAD ANYONE BEEN WATCHING, THEY WOULD HAVE SEEN THE DUCHESS CLIMBING DOWN THE SHEER FACE OF THE CASTLE WITH AMAZING AGILITY!

A FEW MINUTES LATER A HUGE BAT FLITTED THROUGH THE OPEN WINDOW OF THE BARON'S BEDROOM, AND HOVERED OVER HIS SLEEPING FIGURE...

SOMETHING DISTURBED THE BARON'S SLUMBER AND HE AWOKE WITH A START...

WHA...? / AWAY, YOU FIENDISH CREATURE! *HELP! HELP!*

QUICKLY! IN MY ROOM, DUKE... A GIGANTIC BAT! IT ATTACKED ME!

STEP ASIDE! I'LL MAKE SHORT WORK OF IT!

EH? THERE'S NOTHING HERE! PERHAPS YOU WERE DREAMING!

DREAMING? THEN WHAT COULD ACCOUNT FOR THIS TRICKLE OF BLOOD FROM MY THROAT? IT MUST HAVE FLOWN AWAY THROUGH THE OPEN WINDOW!

THE DUKE RETURNED TO HIS ROOM GREATLY PUZZLED...

IT JUST OCCURS TO ME THAT DOLORES WAS NOT IN BED WHEN I AWOKE! I WONDER IF...

•ANOTHER MONTH PASSED AND DUKE FERNANDO DE TOLEDANO WAS SUDDENLY STRICKEN BY A STRANGE ILLNESS WHICH SAPPED HIM OF STRENGTH AND COLOR! MORE DEEPLY IN LOVE WITH HIS BEAUTIFUL WIFE THAN EVER BEFORE, THE DUKE WAS ORDERED BY PUZZLED DOCTORS TO SEEK REST AND RELAXATION AT HIS SEASIDE ESTATE NEAR BARCELONA!

A WEEK PASSED AND THE DUKE BECAME EVEN MORE DRAWN AND PALE THAN BEFORE! HIS SUSPICIONS GREW UNTIL, ONE NIGHT...

DOLORES GONE! I MUST LEARN WHERE SHE GOES AT THESE UNEARTHLY HOURS OF THE NIGHT!

IT'S DOLORES.' HEAVEN PROTECT ME.' SHE FLITS THROUGH THE NIGHT LIKE A GHOST.' SHE MUSTN'T KNOW I HAVE SEEN HER.'

LATER, WHEN DOLORES HAD RETURNED TO HER BED...

AH, DOLORES.' IS IT TRUE, MY BELOVED? WHY ARE YOUR PALE CHEEKS SO FLUSHED TONIGHT? WHY DO YOUR TEETH GLEAM IN THE MOONLIGHT? DOLORES... DOLORES.'

"WITH EACH PASSING DAY THE DUKE GREW WEAKER AND WEAKER WITHOUT KNOWING WHY, UNTIL ONE NIGHT...

"...SUDDENLY HIS DREAMS SEEMED SMOTHERED AND HIDEOUS.' HE GASPED FOR BREATH AS HIS LIFE'S BLOOD WAS SLOWLY DRAINED FROM HIM...

"HE AWOKE WITH AN EAR-PIERCING SHRIEK...

MONSTER... HIDEOUS MONSTER.' WHATEVER YOU ARE OR WHOEVER YOU ARE, I KNOW NOW WHAT HAS BEEN DRAINING LIFE'S BLOOD AWAY!

YOU'VE KILLED *ME*!... YOUR DOLORES.'

THAT BAT--YOU.' YOU'RE A VAMPIRE! AND I KILLED MY BEST FRIEND FOR TELLING ME.' DOLORES! I'M *GLAD* I'VE KILLED YOU.' NOW YOU'LL SPREAD YOUR EVIL NO LONGER.'

AH, BUT MY LOVE! DON'T YOU KNOW? IT IS *YOUR* BLOOD THAT HAS KEPT ME ALIVE! AND NOW YOUR LIFE WILL EBB AWAY, AS MINE IS DOING!

NO! TRUE, I'VE BEEN FEELING WEAK, BUT...

AS HUMANS WE WILL BOTH DIE NOW, BUT IN TAKING YOUR LIFE, I HAVE MADE *YOU* A VAMPIRE, TOO! SO WE'LL LIVE FOREVER, YOU AND I, IN THE GLEN WHERE YOU FIRST FOUND ME, AND THROUGH ETERNITY WE WILL HAVE A CONTEST FOR THE BLOOD OF ALL WHO VENTURE THERE!

NO! IT CANNOT BE! NO! AND YET...WHY DO I FEEL SO STRANGE...WHY ARE MY FINGERS TREMBLING? WHAT IS HAPPENING TO ME?

"...SO THEY'VE BEEN IN THAT SPOT THROUGH THE CENTURIES SINCE THEN, AND ANYONE WHO ENTERS THAT GLEN CAN HEAR THEIR CRIES AS THEY BATTLE ONE ANOTHER FOR...*BLOOD!*"

THE WHOLE THING'S RIDICULOUS! AN INTERESTING LEGEND, BUT...

IT DID SOUND LIKE BATS! PERHAPS...

STILL SKEPTICAL, MY FRIENDS? THEN COME TO THE WINDOW! WE CAN JUST SEE THE TREETOPS OF THE GLEN FROM HERE!

THERE THEY ARE! AND THERE THEY'VE BEEN ALL OF MY LIFE, AND THROUGH MY FATHER'S LIFETIME. AND HIS FATHER'S BEFORE HIM! AND THERE THEY WILL BE, THROUGH ALL ETERNITY!!

TWO GIGANTIC BATS!

THE END

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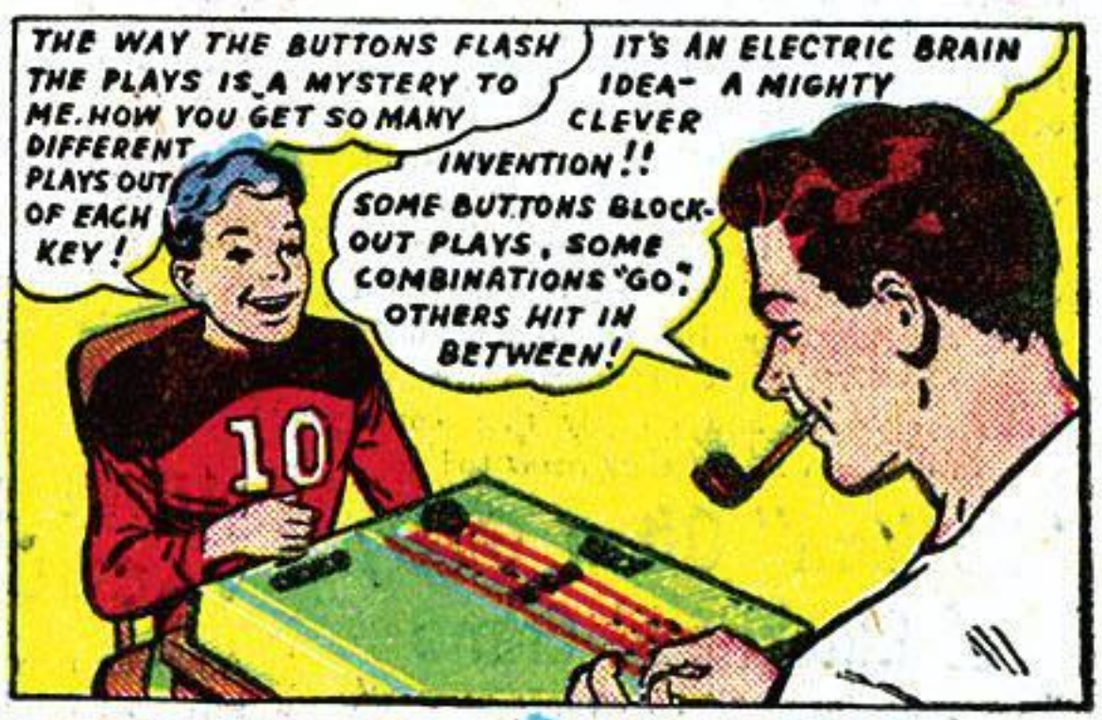
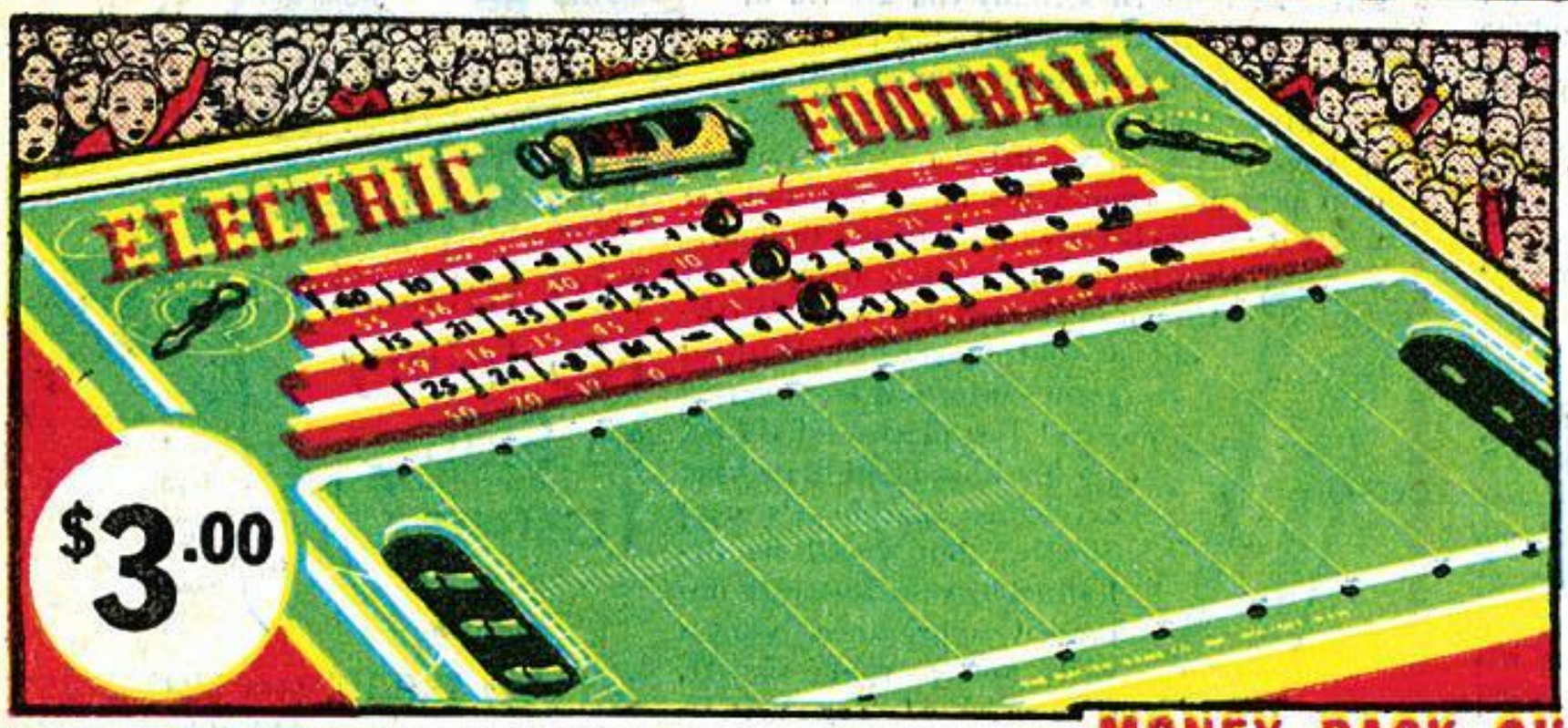
BOYS Play FOOT-BALL Rain or Shine
NO MORE PRACTICE TODAY— GROUND TOO WET! CLEATS RUIN THE FIELD!
OKAY, COACH, C'MON-FELLERS! WE CAN PLAY ELECTRIC FOOTBALL INDOORS!
10

NICE WORK!
OH, BOY, 13-12! THAT BLOCKED KICK WON THE GAME!
THAT'S A SWELL GAME, FRED! I'LL PLAY THE WINNER!
ONLY 5 MINUTE PERIODS?
LET'S GO!! TOUCHDOWN ON KICK-OFF!
THAT MAKES A FAST GAME!
10


THE WAY THE BUTTONS FLASH THE PLAYS IS A MYSTERY TO ME. HOW YOU GET SO MANY DIFFERENT PLAYS OUT OF EACH KEY!
IT'S AN ELECTRIC BRAIN IDEA— A MIGHTY CLEVER INVENTION!!
SOME BUTTONS BLOCK-OUT PLAYS, SOME COMBINATIONS "GO", OTHERS HIT IN BETWEEN!
10



GET SET for Breath-taking ACTION

This wonderful *electric* game is loaded with football, true-to-life action. It takes a keen knowledge of the game to win — to *outsmart, outplay your man.* Electric keys at each end of the playing field, send currents through a maze of wires. Lights flash the play! Yards *gained* or *lost* depend on the keys *secretly* pressed by you and your opponent. It's a thrill when you hit the right combination . . . go tearing through for a long run.

All this is yours for only $3 postpaid

Hi BOYS! ELECTRIC FOOTBALL, besides being one humdinger of a game to *play*, is a most attractive article. The frame is ponderosa pine, lacquered bright yellow. The game's handsome top is coated with a special non-discoloring film that always keeps clean and shiny.

The electric switch keys are nickel-plated. Each key, when pressed, closes three circuits. No. 22 tinned copper wire is used with brass socket shells, fibre insulated. Each of the 19 connections is securely soldered by experts. The lamps (1.25 volts flashlight bulbs) are beautifully colored.

Games are 14 x 16 inches, come complete with lamps, battery, full directions. *You can start playing the moment you open the box.*

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE 5 DAYS TRIAL

The Electric Game Co., Inc., 929 Front St., Holyoke, Mass. Am't Enclosed $____

☐ Football, Electric	$3.	* *Transformer plug-in models*		
☐ Baseball, Electric	$3.	☐ Baseball, Super El.	$10.	
☐ Basketball, Elec.	$3.	☐ Football, Super El.	$10.	
☐ Flash Quiz, Elec.	$3.	*All Games Sent Postpaid*		

C. O. D.
Send $1. deposit
Postman collects
balance and fee.

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PLEASE PRINT

Street _____

City _____ State _____

**Super Electric Games, size 22" x 14" x 2", wood frames with transformer and plug in cord for AC house current. Price $10.00 postpaid.*

BLACKHEADS "PET HATE"

Say Men, Girls in Choosing Date

What a "black mark" is the blackhead . . . according to men and girls, popular enough to be choosy about dates!

"Nobody's dreamboat!" "Nobody's date bait!" And that's not all that's said of those who are careless about blackheads. But blackheads ARE ugly! Blackheads ARE grimy! And they DON'T look good in close-ups!

So can you blame the fellow who says, "Sure, I meet lots of girls who look cute at first glance. But if, on that second glance, I see dingy blackheads, it's *good night!*"

Or can you blame the girl who confesses, "I hate to go out with a fellow who has blackheads. If he's careless about that you're sure he'll embarrass you in other ways, too!"

But you — are YOUR ears burning? Well, you've company and, sad to say, good company. There are lots of otherwise attractive fellows and girls who could date anyone they like if they'd only realize how offensive blackheads are . . . and how easily and quickly they could get rid of them . . . if they *want* to!

"He-Man" Often Guilty of Blackhead Crime

Take your "he-man" . . . super at track, games, sports of all kinds . . . who thinks that after just a shower he's ready to go anywhere! And won't the girls all admire his muscles!

Sure they would! But not many dance floors are set up for hurdle races! You can't show off your snappy left hook when only cokes are in the ring. The "he-man" who's also clean-cut, will get the breaks wherever he is.

Even Cute Girls Become Careless

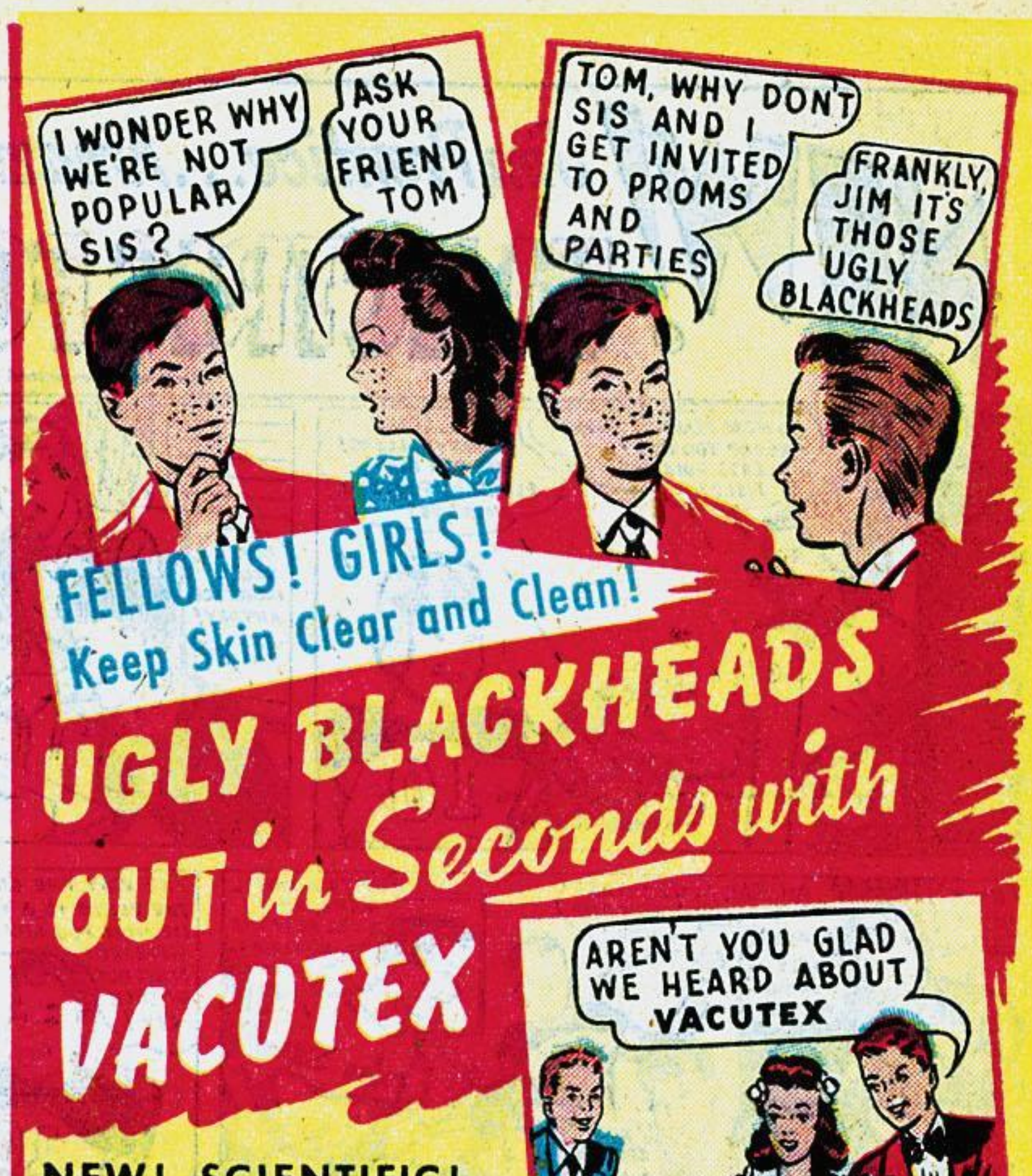
Easy, too easy, for a girl to think that if she has the latest in clothes and hair-do she needn't bother about blackheads. A little more make-up, she guesses, will take care of that. BUT MAKE-UP WON'T HIDE BLACKHEADS! Not unless it's plaster of paris, maybe! And even good make-up "slips" at a dance! So don't take chances, cute though you may be!

TAKE THESE TIPS TO BANISH BLACKHEADS

Keep skin clean by washing morning and night with warm, almost hot, water. Use good soap and plenty of it. And finish with cool water.

Extract every blackhead as soon as you see it—with a SAFE extractor. Don't use finger nails. Don't squeeze. That may mean infection, injured tissues, a marred skin.

Just be clean! Be quick! And be safe! That's easy! And that's ALL!


I WONDER WHY WE'RE NOT POPULAR SIS?
ASK YOUR FRIEND TOM
TOM, WHY DON'T SIS AND I GET INVITED TO PROMS AND PARTIES
FRANKLY, JIM IT'S THOSE UGLY BLACKHEADS

FELLOWS! GIRLS!
Keep Skin Clear and Clean!

UGLY BLACKHEADS OUT in Seconds with VACUTEX

NEW! SCIENTIFIC! VACUUM ACTION!

Amazing new VACUTEX is painless . . . safe . . . fast! In seconds you are rid of those ugly blackheads that clog the pores . . . make your skin look grimy and dingy . . . give others such a wrong impression of you. VACUTEX creates a gentle vacuum pressure around the blackhead and extracts it—quickly!—without injury to tender skin tissues. Keep skin always clear this new scientific way. Without painful squeezing! Without dangerous infection from germy fingers! Just place VACUTEX over blackhead and draw back extractor. Blackhead's out! Simple! But you'll be delighted by your instantly improved appearance. Others will notice your clearer, cleaner skin! Try VACUTEX — now!

RUSH COUPON NOW!

10 DAY TRIAL OFFER

Don't send a penny. Mail coupon and pay postman only $1.00 plus postage. Or save all postage by enclosing $1.00 with guarantee coupon. If not thrilled to be rid of embarrassing hated blackheads this new quick way — just return VACUTEX in 10 days and get $1 back. Order today!

No Squeezing
No Infection
No Injury
to Skin Tissues!

Just place VACUTEX over blackhead—release extractor—and blackhead's out!

10 DAY TRIAL GUARANTEE

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19 West 44th St., New York 18, N. Y.

☐ Enclosed find $1.00. Send me VACUTEX postpaid.

☐ Ship C.O.D. I will pay postman $1.00 plus postage.

My dollar will be refunded if I am not delighted.

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

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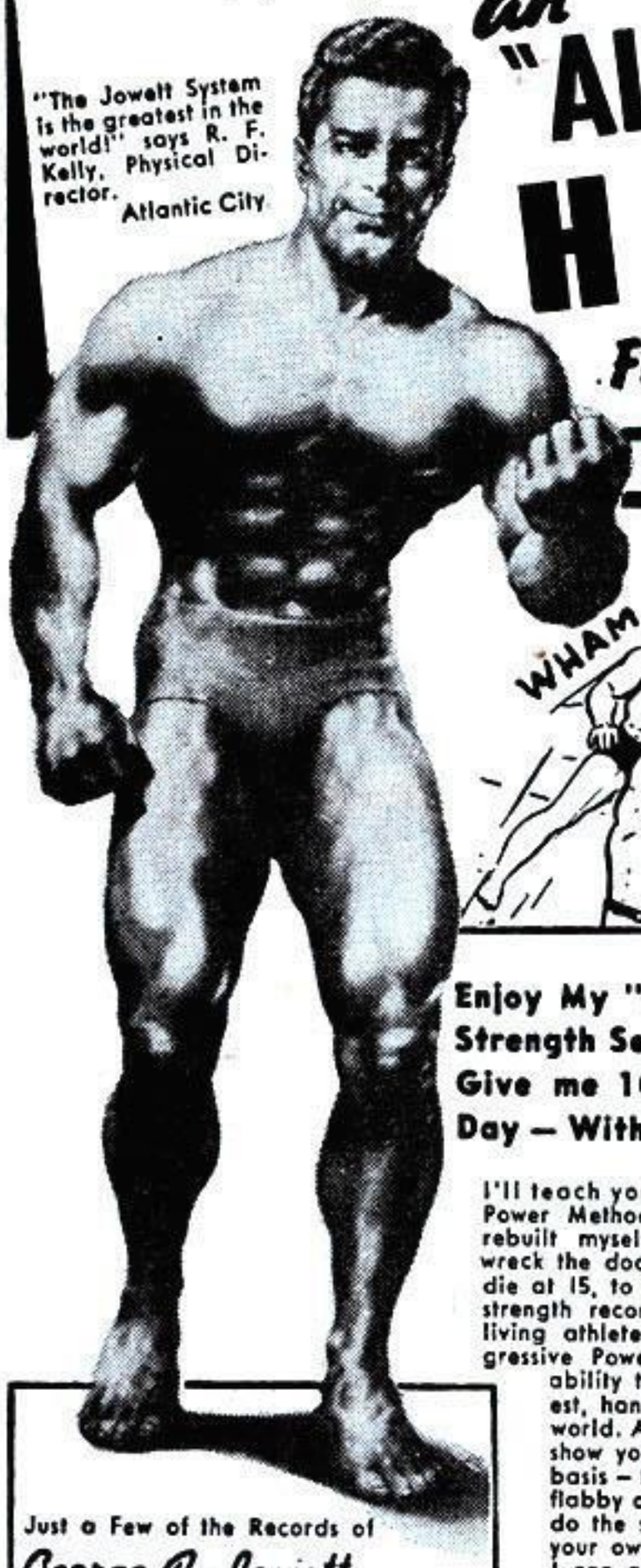
Let's Go, Pal! I'll prove I can make YOU an "ALL-AROUND" HE-MAN

"The Jowett System is the greatest in the world!" says R. F. Kelly, Physical Director. Atlantic City



.FAST—or it won't cost you a cent— says George F. Jowett—World's Greatest Body Builder

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DARLING, THAT BULLY WON'T PICK ON YOU AGAIN.
WHAM
JOE WALLOPED ANOTHER HOMER! HE'S SURE TO BE CAPTAIN NOW!
JOE YOUR NEW ENERGY AND APPEARANCE SURE DO A GOOD JOB! YOU EARNED YOUR PROMOTION.

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- Four times winner of the world's most perfectly developed body . . . plus many, many other world records!

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Muzzle loader. Ideal for younger boys. $1.98

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Blued Targeteer Pistol, Target Cards, 2 Spinners, tube "tiny B-B" shot. Carton is target backstop. SAFE. Accurate to 10 feet. Only $2.98. (If Dealer hasn't it, send $3 to Daisy, Dept. T-10, we'll ship Outfit postpaid. No Canadian orders, please.)

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